

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California:

Native Pink Bollworm (PBW) captures increased slightly this past week. The increase coincides with our heat unit model prediction of peak emergence of the second field generation in Palo Verde. There were 3,989 native PBW captures this week, bringing the season total to 160,828 native PBW finds. This represents a native capture rate of 11 natives per trap, the rate at this time last year was 38 natives per trap. This is the first season of mass sterile release in Southern California and we should see an even more substantial decline in Native PBW captures in the coming weeks.

Agricultural Pest Control Supervisor, Jodi Brigman has concluded her boll survey from 2006. She collected 200 bolls from refuge (conventional, or non-BT) cotton at 10 various sites. The bolls were ginned and 536 native PBW moths were removed from the lint. The cotton seeds were then stored in an outdoor "chicken coop" to simulate field conditions. An additional 539 native moths emerged from the seeds. This represents the number of native moths that were being reared in the field under the previous practice of planting refuge cotton. Jodi also collected 1,000 bolls from each adjacent Bt cotton field at the 10 sites. There were 24 native moths which emerged from the 10,000 bolls collected. This is far below the 2% expression of Bt gene and thus proves that resistance has not been developed by Pink Bollworm.

San Joaquin Valley:

PBW trappers have placed and numbered all their General Detection Traps in the San Joaquin Valley. All Early Detection Traps were pulled. Trap totals are now 1,576 in Fresno County, 1,152 in Kern County, 77 in Madera County, 870 in Merced County, 332 in Tulare County and 1,358 in Kings County. A total of 12,060,238 sterile moths were received and released for the week, bringing the season release total to 124,362,151. Shafter Identification (ID) Lab staff examined 584 traps containing 16,122 sterile moths in traps from the Kern, Kings and Tulare counties.

No native PBW moths were trapped, but fourteen "planted moths" were found by trappers and verified by the ID Lab this week. Associate Agricultural Biologist Tyson Porter performed sterile insect planting (SIP) on all trap-lines. This is a part of the PBW Program's Quality Assurance (QA) Monitoring. Selected traps are "salted" with non-dyed, sterile female PBW moths, at various times of the season. SIP provides training to both trappers and ID personnel in spotting PBW moths. ID Lab identifiers look at thousands of sterile PBW moths daily. The non-dyed sterile PBW female moths provide excellent QA for ID purposes. Tyson will direct additional plantings of PBW moths in traps on an "as needed" basis.

Sacramento Valley:

The latest heat unit projections indicate mapping and trapping will begin in mid-August. All cotton growing counties in the Sacramento Valley responded with their 2007 cotton acreage this week. There are 935 acres in Colusa County, 2,615 in Glenn County, 790 acres in Sutter County and 100 acres in Tehama County. Yolo County reports they have no cotton acreage this year. The total cotton acreage in the Sacramento Valley is 4,440 acres. The PBW Program rounds the County cotton acreage totals to the nearest five acres.